

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ABIDJA 11568 131155Z
ACTION INR-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ISO-00 PM-04 EUR-12 /032 W
----- 108378 /17

P 131108Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1244

C O N F I D E N T I A L ABIDJAN 11568

NOFORN

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDEV, MASS, IV
SUBJ: IVORY COAST INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION DIA, INFO AMEMBASSY LOME, OUAGADOUGOU,
CONAKRY, BAMAKO, USDAO PARIS, USDAO DAKAR DEC 10 DEC 76
FROM USDAO ABIDJAN, DTG 101725Z DEC 76. REPEATED FOR
YOUR INFO

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L / NOT RELEASABLE TO FOREIGN NATIONALS 346
DSC AYM
SUBJ: THIS IS IR 6851012476

1. IVORY COAST/FRANCE/GUINEA
2. INDEPENDENCE DAY PARADE(U)
3. NA
4. 761207
5. ABIDJAN, IVORY COAST: 761207-761210
6. A-1, B-2
7. PERSONAL OBSERVATION, FRENCH MILITARY OFFICERS (THREE
ONE TIME SOURCES)

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 ABIDJA 11568 131155Z

8. 6 851 0124 76

9. 761210

10. NA

1. PG2200, 2220, 2240, 1300; IR 6851009176, 6851011576, 685100736, 6851011176, 6851011376, INITIATIVE.

12. USDAO: ABIDJAN, IVORY COAST

13. N/A

14. DAVID G. FOULDS, LTC, GS, ACTING DEFENSE ATTACHE

15. NOFORN CAVEAT USED BECAUSE OF PLACEMENT OF SOURCES. THE INDEPENDENCE DAY PARADE HELD IN KOUMASSI(SUBURB) OF ABIDJAN ON 7 DEC76 WAS VERY IMPRESSIVE. OF SPECIAL INTEREST WERE THE INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF AMX 13 TANKS FROM FOUR TO NINE AND THE APPEARANCE OF THREE FRENCH JAGUAR JET FIGHTER AIRCRAFT. ACCORDING TO FRENCH MIL CONTACTS THE AUGMENTATION OF AMX TANKS (FOUR WITH 75MM GUNS AND FIVE WITH 90MM GUNS) WAS POSSIBLE BECAUSE THE FRENCH MILITARY BATTALION (4 BIMA) (SEE IR 6851007376 AND 6851009176) 'LOANED' THE IVORIAN GOVT THE TANKS. THE TANKS ON LOAN, BELIEVED TO BE THE FIVE WITH THE 90MM GUNS WERE NEWLY PAINTED AND HAD IVORIAN MARKINGS. THE JAGUAR AIRCRAFT WERE REPORTEDLY REQUESTED BY PRES HOUPHOUET PERSONALLY FROM PRES GUISCARD DURING ONE OF HIS RECENT VISITS TO FRANCE. ALTHOUGH THESE THREE AIRCRAFT CAME FROM FRANCE (ALSOSEE IR 6851011576) SPECIFICALLY FOR THE PARADE, WITHIN ONE YEAR FOUR JAGUAR AIRCRAFT WILL BE BASED IN THE IVORY COAST. THE AIRCRAFT WILL INITIALLY BE STATIONED IN ABIDJAN BUT LATER WILL BE MOVED TO BUAKE(741N-502W) (OR NEAR BOUAKE). THERE MAY ALSO BE AN AUGMENTATION OF APPROX FIFTY FRENCH AIR FORCE PERSONNEL TO SUPPORT THE JAGUARS AND FLY THEM. (COMMENT: THERE WERE 10-15 FRENCH AF PERSONNEL IN ABIDJAN DURING THE INDEP CEREMONIES, BUT NO ONE WOULD SAY EXACTLY WHY THEY WERE HERE. QUERIES WERE MET WITH "THEY ARE JUST PASSING THROUGH".) ACCORDING TO ONE FRENCH MIL OFF THE TANKS AND PLANES WERE CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 ABIDJA 11568 131155Z

BROUGHT HERE SPECIFICALLY TO SHOW GUINEA THAT THE IVORY COAST HAS EQUIPMENT THAT WORKS, BECAUSE THAT IN GUINEA DOES NOT.

COMMENT: INCREASED MILITARY INVENTORY IS PROBABLY IN PART DESIGNED TO SATISFY DEMANDS OF IVORIAN MILITARY FOR MORE SOPHISTICATED HARDWARE (SEE IRS' 6851011176 AND 6851011376). BUT IT ALSO SERVES AS A DEMONSTRATION TO IVORY COAST'S

NEIGHBORS THAT ITS MILITARY IS A FORCE TO BE RECKONED
WITH. THE AVERAGE AFRICAN, AS WELL AS, MANY DIPLOMATIC
PERSONNEL DO NOT KNOW WHO OWNS THE JAGUARS AND TANKS NOR
WHO PILOTS THEM. THIS WAS BROUGHT HOME TO THE RO WHEN
HE WAS ASKED BY THE ZAIRIAN CHARGE' ON 8 DEC 76 IF
THE IVORY COAST OWNED THE JET AIRCRAFT HE SAW AT THE
PARADE AND WHO WAS FLYING THEM. AS POINTED OUT IN
PREVIOUS REPORTING PRESS HOUPOUET HAS CAREFULLY NOTED
THE STREAM OF RHETORICAL ATTACKS EMANATING IN RECENT
WEEKS FROM CNAKRY AND IT LOOKS AS IF THE FRENCH ARE
WILLING TO GO TO CONSIDERABLE EXPENSE TO ENABLE HIM TO
MAKE AN OBLIQUE BUT EFFECTIVE REPLY. REPORTS OF AFLD
CONSTRUCTION NEAR BOUAKE HAVE BEEN RECD. ALSO, THE AIR
FORCE TRAING SCHOOL HAS BEEN PLANNING TO MOVE TO
BOUAKE FOR SOME TIME. THIS IR WILL BE FOLLOWED BY
PHOTOGRAPHIC COVERAGE OF THE PARADE. GDS-31DEC82. UNQUOTE
STEARNS

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY EQUIPMENT, MILITARY BUILDUP, INDEPENDENCE CELEBRATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: coburnhl
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976ABIDJA11568
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760458-1025
From: ABIDJAN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761246/aaaabnwh.tel
Line Count: 132
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION INR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: NOFORN
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: NOFORN
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: coburnhl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 MAR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23 MAR 2004 by morefirh>; APPROVED <16 AUG 2004 by coburnhl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: IVORY COAST INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION FOLLOWING SENT ACTION DIA, INFO AMEMBASSY LOME, OUAGADOUGOU, CONAKRY, BAMAKO, USDAO PARIS, USDAO DAKAR DEC 10 D
TAGS: PDEV, MASS, IV, GV
To: n/a
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006